

THE SPOTLight

News From Councilmember Sherri Lightner

City of San Diego, District One

October 6, 2011

Rancho Peñasquitos Community Fire Watch

Fire season is here, so now is the time to brush up on fire safety and to get involved in helping prevent wildfires.

This Saturday (Oct. 8) Sherri along with Fire Chief Javier Mainar, Assistant Chief of Police Boyd Long and Rancho Peñasquitos leaders are meeting to help kick off the 3rd Annual Peñasquitos Community Fire Watch program.

The event will be held at the Rancho Peñasquitos Library at 13330 Salmon River Road from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Those in attendance will be able to learn more about the Community Fire Watch program, fire and emergency preparedness and response, and canyon and brush management.



A Quint fire truck from Fire Station 40, which serves the Rancho Peñasquitos community.

There is no shortage of opportunities to get involved in helping protect Rancho Peñasquitos.

Those interested can join the Fire Safe Council,

the Community Emergency Response Team or the Peñasquitos Response Council.

For more fire safety tips, please visit the San Diego Fire Department's [website](#).

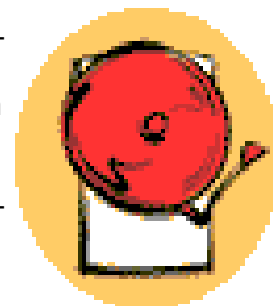
False Fire Alarms

The City Council recently voted to implement a new program designed to deal with the ongoing problem of false alarms.

False alarms have been a drain on the City's Fire-Rescue Department, wasting 1,977 work hours and costing more than half a million dollars over the past three years.

The more time firefighters have to spend dealing with false alarms, the less time they have for real emergencies.

The new program, which is 100 percent cost recoverable, will charge a nominal fee of just \$18 for a two-year permit to register fire alarm systems for residences and commercial properties.



The permit process is needed to track which properties are repeat offenders when it comes to false alarms.

Also, the system is designed to ensure that honest mistakes aren't penalized. Property owners won't be fined unless they have more than two false alarms a year.

"The penalties are fair and will motivate owners of malfunctioning alarm systems to get them fixed so our firefighters can focus on real emergencies," Sherri said.

You can find out more about this new program by clicking this [link](#).

Emergency Preparedness

One of the big lessons of last month's blackout was the need to be prepared for any type of emergency.

San Diego is vulnerable to everything from wildfires to earthquakes and flooding.

Not sure what you need in case of an emergency?



Some of the important items to have on hand are:

- Three-day water supply, with one-gallon of water per day per person
- Canned foods
- First-aid kit
- Flashlights and batteries
- An emergency preparedness manual, which you can find [here](#).

Update: Los Peñasquitos Lagoon

One of the most devastating effects of the blackout on Sept. 8 was the sewage spills that occurred as a result of the power loss.

The spill at Pump Station 64, which serves District 1, sent some 2.6 million gallons of sewage into the storm channel and Los Peñasquitos Lagoon.

While Pump Station 64 uses current best practices and has two electrical feeds, it does not have a backup generator and so it was more vulnerable to failure during the blackout.

Part of the reason for the lack of the backup generator is the small size of this Pump Station, which makes placing a backup generator

more difficult and expensive.

Ensuring that Pump Station 64 is upgraded cost efficiently so that it can better handle another emergency is a priority to Sherri.

The Public Utilities Department is currently working on the issue.

"I will do everything in my power to make sure this never happens again and that the Lagoon is restored," Sherri said.

Working for You in the Community

Helping constituents get potholes filled, streetlights fixed and other neighborhood repairs is one of Sherri's top priorities. Here is a sampling of what Sherri and her staff helped get done this past month:

Potholes

- 4423 Governor Drive
- 6662 and 6653 Aranda Ave.
- 6663 Tyrain St.
- Cliffridge Avenue and Scenic Place
- Via Capri and Rue Michael
- 5811 Soledad Mountain Road

Graffiti removal

- Gilman Drive at the I-5 southbound ramp
- Benches and tabletops at Carmel Creek Park

Streetlights and traffic signals

- Light fixed at 7440 Girard
- Malfunctioning streetlights fixed along Avenida Cresta and Camino de la Costa
- Downed streetlight replaced at intersection of Via Papel and Via Cinta
- Streetlight fixed at Via Campestre and Caminito Mar de Plata
- Pedestrian signals fixed at N. Torrey Pines Road and Northpointe Drive

Sidewalk and other repairs

- Downed traffic sign fixed at Governor Drive and Streseman
- Downed parking sign fixed at Avenida de la Playa and El Paseo Grande

If you need repairs in your neighborhood, call Sherri's office at (619) 236-6611 or email sherrilightner@sandiego.gov. Her staff is here to help.

Street resurfacing

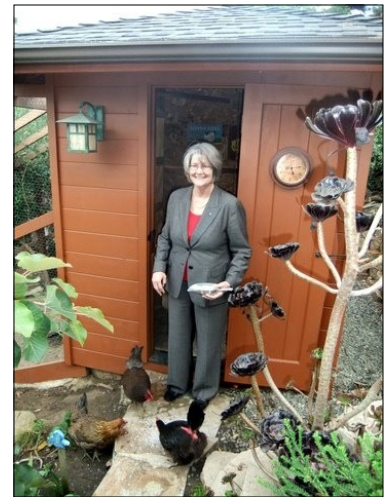
Ever curious to find out when your street might get a much-needed facelift?

The City of San Diego is adding a new feature to its website (www.sandiego.gov) that will give an update on which streets are getting ready to be repaved.

The updates are part of a larger \$47 million project designed to repave more than 100 miles of San Diego streets. As of August, 53 miles of city streets had been repaved. By the end of the project, which is being paid for with deferred-maintenance bond money, more than 1,000 city blocks will be repaved.



Sherri with Rand Newman, president of the San Dieguito River Conservancy, presenting a proclamation recognizing the group's 25th Anniversary at River Valley Fest, its annual fundraiser on Sept. 25. To find out more about the group's important work, visit its website <http://sdrvc.org/>.



Sherri did some research on the urban agriculture trend on Sept. 30 and got to feed some chickens along the way. Stay tuned for updates on this issue.

Sherri in September



At Sherri's suggestion, City staff used drought-tolerant plants in a previously empty flowerbed outside of City Hall. The new landscaping spruces up the area and highlights the benefits of drought-tolerant plants in conserving water.



Sherri toured UC San Diego School of Medicine's new Medical Education and Telemedicine Center on Sept. 16.



Sherri proclaimed September "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in the City of San Diego on Sept. 19 and recognized Peg Ford and the rest of Ovarian Cancer Advocacy Alliance of San Diego for their work in educating medical professionals and the public about early diagnosis and better treatment options.



Sherri attended the Temple Beth Israel's 150th Anniversary on Sept. 19.



Sherri at the 28th Annual Fire Fighters & Friends Celebrity Waiters Luncheon on Sept. 23 with Frank De Clercq and Mike McGhee. The event benefits United Cerebral Palsy of San Diego.



Sherri joined her Council colleagues Todd Gloria, Tony Young and Marti Emerald to proclaim Sept. 24 "AIDS Walk Day" in the City of San Diego.

District 1 Events

October 19

The Leonard Patton Jazz Trio

Free concert

University Community Library
4155 Governor Drive, University City
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

October 29

Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Drop off your unused prescription drugs

Scripps Green Hospital
10666 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla

UCSD — Lot 705 at Voigt and Campus Point Drive
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

October 29

Halloween Costume Contest

Show off your costume

University Community Library
4155 Governor Drive, University City
Noon to 2 p.m.

October 29

La Jolla Halloween Festival

Fun family event

La Jolla Recreation Center
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

October 29 La Jolla Shores Fall Fest

Fun family event

Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Help Make a Difference

The Citizens' Review Board on Police Practices needs you.

This critical board is looking for committed and engaged San Diegans to help ensure that the San Diego Police Department lives up to its highest standards, by reviewing public complaints about police misconduct.

The Citizens' Review Board meets the fourth Tuesday of every month from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at locations around the City.

To find out more about this Board and how you can serve, please click [here](#).

Your Community Representatives

If you have a concern or question about an issue in your neighborhood, please contact our constituent services representative or your community representative. We're here to help!

Torrey Hills / Constituent Services (street repairs, water leaks, traffic issues, code compliance, etc.)

Janie Hoover jmhoover@sandiego.gov (619) 236-6611

La Jolla

Erin Demorest edemorest@sandiego.gov (619) 236-6611

Black Mountain Ranch / Rancho Peñasquitos / Torrey Highlands

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University City / UCSD

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Carmel Valley / Pacific Highlands Ranch / Del Mar Mesa

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